

Lineage and Honors History  
of the  
**385 Air Expeditionary Group (AMC)**

**Lineage.** Established as 385 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 25 Nov 1942. Activated on 1 Dec 1942. Redesignated 385 Bombardment Group, Heavy on 20 Aug 1943. Inactivated on 28 Aug 1945. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 385 Strategic Aerospace Wing, which was established, and activated, on 15 Nov 1962. Organized on 1 Jan 1963. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 15 Dec 1964. Redesignated 385 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, on 12 Jun 2002.

**Assignments.** II Bomber Command, 1 Dec 1942; Eighth Air Force, c. 6 Jul 1943; VIII Bomber Command, c. 8 Jul 1943; 4 Bombardment (later, 4 Combat Bombardment) Wing, 13 Jul 1943 (attached to 401 Provisional Combat Wing Bombardment), c. 13 Jul-12 Sep 1943); 93 Combat Bombardment Wing, 17 Feb 1945; 45 Combat Bombardment Wing, 24 May 1945; 20 Bombardment Wing, 18 Jun-Aug 1945. Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962; 818 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964. Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 12 Jun 2002.

**Components.** *Squadrons.* **34** Air Refueling: 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964 (detached 10-15 Dec 1964). **548:** 1 Dec 1942-28 Aug 1945. **549:** 1 Dec 1942-28 Aug 1945; 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964 (not operational 1-15 Dec 1964). **550:** 1 Dec 1942-28 Aug 1945. **551:** 1 Dec 1942-28 Aug 1945.

**Stations.** Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Dec 1942; El Paso, TX, 21 Dec 1942; Geiger Field, WA, 1 Feb 1943; Great Falls AAB, MT, 11 Apr-Jun 1943; Great Ashfield, England, 8 Jul 1943-Aug 1945; Sioux Falls, AAFld, SD, c. 14-28 Aug 1945. Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964.

**Commanders.** Maj David B. Lancaster Jr., 1 Dec 1942; none (not manned), 24 Dec 1942-Feb 1943; Col Elliot Vandevanter Jr., 3 Feb 1943; Col George Y. Jumper, 24 Aug 1944; Col William H. Hanson, 2 Jun 1945; Maj Totton J. Anderson, 29 Jun 1945-unkn. None (not manned) 15 Nov-31 Dec 1962; Col Edwin H. Garrison, 1 Jan 1963; Col Allan A. Lathan, 20 Aug-15 Dec 1964.

**Aircraft and Missiles.** B-17, 1943-1945. Atlas, 1963-1964; KC-135, 1963-1964.

**Operations.** Trained for heavy bombardment operations, Feb-Jun 1943 and moved in early Jul to England, entering combat on 17 Jul 1943. Conducted strategic bombardment missions against targets such as industrial areas, air bases, oil refineries, and communication centers in Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway until the end of the war in Europe in May 1945. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a raid on an aircraft factory at Regensburg, Germany, on 17 Aug 1943, after which group members flew their bombers on to North Africa, accomplishing the first B-17 “shuttle” raid. Earned a second DUC for a 12 May 1944 raid on an aircraft repair plant at Zwickau, Germany, which involved a very long flight against very heavy enemy opposition. Sometimes flew ground support and interdiction missions. In Jun 1944, attacked coastal defenses in preparation for the Normandy invasion, and on D-day, 6 Jun, bombed marshalling yards and crucial road intersections. Bombed enemy positions in support of Allied ground forces attempting a breakthrough at St. Lo in Jul 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, attacked enemy positions, communications, and fortifications. Bombed troop concentrations and communication centers in Germany, Mar-Apr 1945, to assist the final thrust into Germany. After victory in Europe in early May, airlifted prisoners of war from Germany to Allied centers and flew food to Holland.

The air echelon returned to the United States in Jun 1945, while the ground echelon sailed by ship in Aug. Arrived in Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, c. 14 Aug 1945 and inactivated on 28 Aug. Organized at Offutt AFB, NE, on 1 Jan 1963, the wing controlled a mixture of strategic missiles and air refueling aircraft, which were used to support Strategic Air Command commitments worldwide. The wing inactivated in Dec 1964 after phasing out its Atlas “D” missiles.

**Service Streamers.** None.

**Campaign Streamers.** *World War II:* Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.

**Decorations.** Distinguished Unit Citations: Regensburg, Germany, 17 Aug 1943; Zwickau, Germany, 12 May 1944.

**Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through** 12 Jun 2002.

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through** 15 Dec 1964.

**Supersedes** published information contained in Charles A. Ravenstein, *Air Force Combat Wings: Lineage and Honors Histories, 1947-1977* (Washington: USGPO, 1984) and Maurer Maurer (ed.) *Air Force Combat Units of World War II* (Washington: USGPO, 1983).

**Emblem.** None.

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